Situation in the Defence production Unit at Saintala in Orissa

1900. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the tense situation prevailing at the Defence Production Unit at Saintala near Titlagarh in Bolangir district of Orissa;

(b) whether it is due to inadequate attention paid by the Defence Production unit in the recruitment of candidates for various posts; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to resolve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) There is no tension prevailing at the Defence Production Unit which is running smoothly. However, there is some tension outside the defence area arising out of the unrest amongst unemployed youth desirous of getting employment in the factory.

(b) No, Sir. Utmost care is being taken in the recruitment of land displaced persons and local candidates for eligible posts.

(c) Does not arise.

Entry of microlight pilotless air craft in Indian territory

1901. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the security forces in J&K have recently seized two microlight pilotless aircrafts bearing Pakistani and Taiwanese marks in the border districts of Rajouri;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how the pilotless aircrafts entered in our territory and whether the security agencies at border are negligent in their duties;

(d) whether any serious investigation has been made into the incident; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) There is no report of recovery of any micro-light pilotless aircraft in J&K. Two aero-models are however reported to have been recovered by J&K police in Rajouri district on 5th Nov. 98. Details of the aero-models recovered are as under:—

(a) Made of Balsa wood from Taiwan, with a Japanese engine.

(2) Length of the model is six feet with a wing span of six feet.

(c) Radio control set with four channels.

(d) Total weight is 4.5 kg with a payload of 500g to one kg.

(e) Capable of achieving speeds of 80-100 Kmph and ky upto 4000' to 5000' above ground level.

(f) Can be manoeuvred by a handler within a radius of 1 to 1.5 km based on line of sight and fly up to 20 to 30 minutes at a stretch.

The investigation is being carried out by the local police. The Security Forces are maintaining constant vigil on the borders.

Enquiry into the antecedents of Air Force Chief

1902. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry asked for the verification of the antecedents of Air Marshal Sarin, the Chief of Air Force; and